

DRAFT

Example Stage 1 Implementation

(Approximately First 7 Years of Implementation)

Assurances

An assurances package is a set of actions and mechanisms to assure that the Program will be implemented and operated as agreed. The assurances package will include mechanisms to be adopted immediately as well as a contingency process to address situations where a key element of the plan cannot be implemented as agreed.

- Complete programmatic implementation plan (yr 1)
- Finalize development of contingency response process (yr 1)
- Establish forum for stakeholder involvement (yr 1)
- Establish coordination between agencies; or new agency (yr 1-3)
- Introduce state and/or federal legislation if necessary (yr 2-3)
- Complete conservation strategy for ESA (yr 2)
- Implement contingency response as needed (yr 1-7)
- Define interim operational assumptions (yr 1-3)
- Develop an ecosystem restoration implementing organization (yr 1-3); i.e., authority within the individual CALFED agencies or authority in a new organization with responsibility for ecosystem restoration
- Seek "safe harbor" protections for property owners
- Continue restoration "roundtable" type process to seek good ecosystem projects not addressed in ERPP; e.g., Napa River flood and ecosystem restoration
- Introduce legislation necessary to modify water transfer law and statutes to facilitate an appropriately protective water transfer framework (yr 2-3)

Finance

The financial package will seek to finance the preferred program alternative through a combination of federal, state, and user funds.

- Finalize cost share agreements (yr 1)
- Establish user fees (yr 1)
- Seek federal authorization/appropriation and authority to sell state bonds (yr 1-7)

Monitoring

Establish monitoring for all program elements that focuses on obtaining data on a timely basis, providing interpretation of data, and maintaining data in an accessible and useful form.

- Complete monitoring plan including all elements of the Program (yr 1)
- Annual reports on status/progress (yr 1-7)
- Analysis of status and need for adjustments in stage 2 (yr 5)
- Feedback available on actual diversion effects of south Delta pumps (yr 2-7)
- Feedback available on need to reduce bromides (yr 5)

Water Transfer Framework

The water transfer framework is designed to improve the efficiency of the water transfer process. This will facilitate development of a statewide water transfer market while providing protection from third party impacts and local groundwater or environmental impacts.

- Establish clearinghouse to ensure public participation and disclose information, perform analysis of transfer impacts, and evaluate monitoring of actual transfer impacts (yr 1)
- Continue clearinghouse functions to provide information on environmental, economic and water resource protections (yr 2-7); e.g., third party impacts, groundwater resource protection, instream flow [1707] transfers, environmental protection in source areas, area of origin/watershed priorities, and rules/guidelines for environmental water transfers
- Establish technical, operational, and administrative rules that govern water transfer transactions (yr 1-4); e.g., transferable water and the "no injury rule", operations criteria and/or carriage water requirements, reservoir refill criteria, and streamlined permitting process
- Establish disclosure process that provides information regarding potential access to state and federal water facilities for movement of water transfers (yr 2); e.g. priority of transferred water in existing project facilities, priority of transferred water in new facilities, wheeling costs

Water Use Efficiency

The CALFED water use efficiency element focuses on formulation of policies which support implementation of efficiency measures at the local and regional level. The policy is a reflection of the State of California legal requirements for reasonable and beneficial use of water.

- Expand DWR and USBR programs to provide technical and planning assistance to local agencies (yr 1-7)
- Establish process to approve urban water management plans (yr 1-7)
- Implement AB 3616 process fully with endorsement of agency plans (yr 1-7)
- Implement urban MOU process fully with certification of agency implementation plans (yr 1-7)
- Implement conservation and reclamation demonstration projects (yr 3-7)

Levees

The focus of the long-term levee protection element is to improve Delta levee reliability.

- Project level environmental documentation and permitting as needed (yr 1-7)
- Fund levee improvements up to PL84-99, approx. \$114 million in first stage (yr 1-7)
- Improve levees for 8 western Delta islands, approx. \$82 million in first stage (yr 1-7)
- Institute Emergency Management Plan (yr 1-7)
- Initiate Subsidence Control Grant Program to develop BMP's, approx. \$11 million (yr 1-7)
- Continue Delta seismic monitoring (yr 1-7)

Ecosystem Restoration

Begin ecosystem restoration activities which focus on reducing direct mortality. Capital outlays may approach \$150 million per year.

- Project level environmental documentation and permitting as needed (yr 1-7)
- Establish a partnership with a university and fund focused research (yr 1-7); e.g., hatchery management research
- Establish funding for approximately an additional \$500 million capital outlays (for approximately \$1.5 billion total) for subsequent stages
- Identify source for ongoing inflation indexed operational funds; e.g. augmentation of CVPIA restoration funds by approximately \$20 million, new special use

- permits (such as Delta boaters), consolidate existing fees (CVPLA, user fees on anglers, four pumps agreement, Tracy pumps mitigation, etc.)
- Initiate high priority actions that reduce stressors of direct mortality (yr 1-7)
 - Begin screening Sacramento River and tributary diversions less than 100 cfs
 - Screen 10-15 San Joaquin River and tributary diversions greater than 100 cfs
 - Facilitate decisions on harvest management; e.g. work with Pacific Fishery Management Council for marking of hatchery product and requirements for anglers to return unmarked fish
 - Demonstration projects for habitat restoration of approximately 6000 to 7000 acres (riparian, tidal wetlands, seasonal wetlands, wildlife friendly agricultural practices, etc. for fish and wildlife) along the South Fork Mokelumne River corridor; e.g. Canal Ranch, Brack Tract, McCormack Williamson Tract, easements on Staten Island (if willing local participants)
 - Develop management direction for existing government lands on Twitchell and Sherman Islands
 - Demonstration projects for habitat restoration (riparian, tidal wetlands, regrading to reduce fish stranding, etc. for fish and wildlife) in Yolo Bypass corridor; e.g., easements along Tule Canal, some acquisitions along Cache Slough, acquire Little Holland, management direction for Liberty and Prospect Islands
 - Demonstration projects for habitat restoration (riparian, attached berms and shallows, etc. for fish to provide more shading, refuge, and residence time) along the mainstem San Joaquin River corridor within the legal Delta
 - Remove select physical barriers to fish passage; e.g., barrier on Battle Creek
 - Incorporate select ecosystem improvements with levee improvements for 8 western islands
 - Incorporate ecosystem improvements with subsidence reversal plans (yr 1-7)
 - Begin development of ecosystem water market (potentially \$20 million per year), after an appropriately protective water transfer framework has been established, to avoid regulatory reallocation (yr 1-7); e.g., acquire 100,000 acre-feet on long-term basis and plan for other short-term purchases
 - Begin purchase of Sacramento River meander corridor easements (primarily easements with some acquisitions)
 - Begin flood plain acquisitions and easements along San Joaquin River if Corps of Engineers proceeds with flood plan (yr 4-7)
 - Begin gravel management (yr 5-7); e.g., isolate gravel pits on San Joaquin River tributaries and relocate gravel operations on Sacramento River tributaries (most gravel work would be implemented in subsequent stages with designs and plans

- for ecosystem reclamation of gravel mining sites)
- Improve monitoring, detection, and control of exotic species (yr 1-7); e.g., border inspections, balanced management, water hyacinth control, funded early response)
- Continue scientific evaluations (yr 1-7)
- Conduct studies/design/environmental documentation for water development for environmental uses (yr 1-7)

Water Quality

The water quality effort initially focuses on reducing toxicity for the ecosystem and water users.

- Project level environmental documentation and permitting as needed (yr 1-7)
- Initiate high priority water quality improvement actions; e.g. for mercury, copper, selenium, pesticides (yr 1-7)
- Studies/testing/pilot evaluations (yr 1-7); e.g., research Cache Creek mercury issues including habitat restoration potential for contributions to methyl mercury formation
- Implementation of tested actions (yr 3-7)

Watershed Management

This program element is primarily a coordination effort with local watershed groups. The watershed coordination element also provides a focus for public participation for other Program elements. CALFED will participate where proposed watershed actions provide a strong link to critical Delta problems; expect \$10 million to \$15 million annually. The ownership of the watershed work is with the local groups.

- Develop a coordination framework to define roles and ensure effective communication among state, federal, local government, and stakeholder groups (yr 1); e.g., \$ and coordination to help local resource conservation districts develop consistent standards
- Develop a plan to foster local watershed groups (yr 1-2); i.e., formal MOU or other agreement with functional groups in each ecological zone of ERPP (such as Yolo Basin Foundation, Deer Creek Conservancy, etc.)
- Provide stewardship funds to foster local watershed groups (yr 2-7)
- Select a university to manage technical input to a clearinghouse function (yr 1)
- Establish clearinghouse to assist watershed groups with information about funding opportunities, technical assistance, and project implementation (yr 1); e.g. continuous review and input to existing watershed inventories, databases
- Develop performance measures which show the level of success or failure for use

- in adjusting future watershed participation (yr 1-2)
- Identify priority watersheds in terms of solutions to problems affecting the Bay-Delta estuary and develop implementation schedule tied with other Program elements (yr 2-7); e.g., priorities for fire control, meadow restoration vegetation management, protecting source water quality, reduce erosion, control exotic species, etc.
- Identify funding opportunities (pool agency money, grants, cost share, etc.) to provide incentives to local level for select upper watershed projects (yr 2-7); e.g., Pumas County, Placer County, El Dorado County, etc.

Groundwater Banking and Conjunctive Use

This element is primarily a coordination effort with local implementing entities.

- Develop and implement a framework for conjunctive use (yr 1)
- Provide funding assistance for groundwater plan development (yr 1-7)
- Identify local cooperating entities and CALFED role (yr 1-3)
- Initiate baseline monitoring and modeling (yr 1-5)
- Initiate field and pilot studies (yr 2-7); e.g. American Basin
- Project environmental documentation and permitting (yr 3-7)
- Designs (yr 4-7)
- Construct 2 to 3 facilities (yr 5-7); e.g. Madera Ranch, expanded Kern water bank

Surface Storage

The first stage of this element will primarily consist of studies and evaluations necessary prior to final permitting. This will allow surface storage projects to be ready for permitting and construction in later stages should the projects be selected for implementation.

- Identify local cooperating entities and CALFED role (yr 1-3)
- Environmental documentation (yr 1-5)
- Feasibility studies (yr 1-5)
- Field and pilot studies (yr 1-5)
- 404(b)(1) analyses; project site screening, least cost evaluations, and equivalency analyses (yr 1-5)
- Site selection (yr 5-6)
- Permits and operating agreements (yr 5-7)
- Evaluate improvements to Tehama Colusa Canal and others (yr 1-5)

Conveyance

Much of the first stage of this element will consist of studies and evaluations necessary prior to final permitting. This will allow conveyance projects to be ready for permitting and construction in later stages should the projects be selected for implementation. Some construction on the South and North Delta improvements could occur within the first stage.

South Delta Improvements (Alts. 1, 2, and 3)

- Complete environmental documentation and permitting (yr 1-2)
- Initiate "joint point of diversion" operations for state/federal export facilities (yr 2)
- Design south Delta improvements (yr 2-3)
- Construct south Delta improvements [expand permitted south Delta pumping capacity from 11,000 to 15,000 cfs] (yr 3-5)
- South Delta screening demonstration project (yr 2-6)
- Project environmental documentation and permitting for SWP/CVP intertie (yr 2-4)
- Design SWP/CVP intertie (yr 5-6)

North Delta Improvements (Alt. 2; possibly 2 and 3)

- Project environmental documentation (yr 1-6)
- Feasibility studies (yr 1-6)
- Field and pilot studies (yr 1-6)
- Environmental documentation for land acquisition (yr 2-3)
- Land acquisition (yr 4-6)
- Permits and operating agreements (and permitting (yr 4-6)
- Design of select improvements (yr 7)
- Pilot studies for dredge material reuse (yr 1-7)

Isolated Facility (Alt. 3)

- Project environmental documentation (1-7)
- Feasibility studies (yr 1-6)
- Field and pilot studies (yr 1-6)
- Environmental documentation for land acquisition (yr 1-2)
- Land acquisition for isolated facility (yr 3-5)
- Permits and operating agreements for isolated facility (yr 7+)